

DRAFT

DRAFT

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
January 28, 1997

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board and the first of four Public Hearings was held on Tuesday, January 28, 1997, in the Board Room at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board members present were Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Rocky Medrano, Vice Chair, Dewayne Naumann, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Phil Friday, Hermelinda Zamarripa, Marianne Dwight, Mary K. Isaacs, Louise Nivison, Member Emeritus.

Staff members present were Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Kendall Moss, Deputy Director, Butch Smith, Stuart Strong, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Mary Ybarbo.

A. MEETING CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 10, 1996 and January 7, 1997 meetings were approved.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

See Items for Action below.

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were none.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Make Recommendation to Council for Approval of Conceptual Plan for the Town Lake Animal Shelter

Kurt Lapham, Manager of the Town Lake Animal Center, Joe Seely, Health and Human Services Manager and Stephen Williams, Deputy Director of Health and Human Services for the City of Austin, all approached the board about accepting this recommendation to Council. They informed the board of the increased needs of the shelter, the improvements that would be made for the animals, the programs that would be offered and the improved efficiency that will result with the operations of the new facility. The facility is important in dealing with public health issues.

Mary K. Isaacs made a motion to accept the recommendation. Dewayne Naumann seconded. The vote in favor was 8-0. (Cruz-Torres, Zamarripa, Naumann, Medrano, Castleberry, Carter, Isaacs, Friday)

Approve Agreement with AISD for Redevelopment of Doss Elementary School

Stuart Strong informed the board this would be another joint venture between the City and the Austin Independent School District (AISD) whereby aging playground equipment will be removed by the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) and that a \$20,000 CIP purchase for new equipment will be installed and maintained by AISD. The Doss PTA and AISD have raised additional funds to redevelop the entire playground. Mr. Strong noted that a similar project with AISD has worked well in the Montopolis area at Civitan Park adjacent to Allison School.

Rocky Medrano made a motion to approve the agreement. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded. The vote in favor was 8-0. (Cruz-Torres, Zamarripa, Dwight, Naumann, Medrano, Castleberry, Carter, Isaacs)

F. PUBLIC HEARING

The Chair opened the meeting for public input regarding the Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

John Hamilton, Treasurer with Friends of the Parks, spoke in favor of development of the Colorado River Park and developing the trail system around Town Lake. Mr. Hamilton noted that the City does a poor job of maintaining the present park system.

David Haun, President of Dawson Neighborhood Association, spoke in favor of the Department acquiring property to allow a greenbelt and access to Gillis Park from Cumberland Street along East Bouldin Creek. Mr. Haun favors completing the hike and bike trail around Town Lake.

George Henderson, a member of Greater Austin Soccer Coalition, urged the board to consider adding more soccer fields. There are 20,000 children and adult players for this sport. The development of the Colorado River Park would be a possible resource.

John Gusky, a local soccer player, informed the Board the Zilker Soccer Fields are in need of maintenance.

Gail B. Armstrong, Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association, spoke in support of connecting the dots on the greenbelt area between Town Lake and the South Austin Recreation Center. While he supported the West Bouldin Creek sewer line project, the restoration is less than satisfactory.

Ted Siff, Trust for Public Land, mentioned three items that need to be addressed: development of Colorado River Park, completion of greenways and trails city wide and maintenance of the present parklands.

Inga Van Nynathen, a member of the Metropolitan Trails Council, informed the board her neighborhood association in the Shoal Creek area had done a trail user survey which, among other things, indicated that 75% of those survived want more leash free areas for their dogs and 9% use parks for transportation purposes.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:30 P.M.

G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jesus M. Olivares, Director, informed the board they had received a copy of the Winter edition of the Texas Recreation and Park Society magazine which contains a very informative article about Austin and the many programs which PARD has to offer. It also indicated that Austin would be the host for the NRPA Leadership and Professional Training Institute and Trade Show which will be held at the Renaissance Austin Hotel on February 26 through March 1, 1997. Members were urged to attend.

The Dougherty Arts Center and Community Recreation Centers will host a Totally Cool, Totally Art exhibition at the Givens Recreation Center on Friday, January 31, 1997. This is a display of art work done by children from the Oswaldo "A.B." Cantu Pan American, Alamo, Dottie Jordan, Givens, Hancock, Montopolis, Parque Zaragoza and South Austin Recreation Centers. Members were invited to attend.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Navigation Committee will meet on Thursday, January 30, 1997 at noon to discuss long term goals and objectives.

Programs Committee will meet at noon on Monday, February 3, 1997.

Land and Facilities Committee has no meeting scheduled for lack of an agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.